

# **Community Meetings Responses**

**"Is there a proposed cost reduction that is of concern to you? What alternative would you suggest in its place?"**

## **Location: Community Budget Summit**

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Stop taking "John's" Cars. Legalize prostitution.

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For Parks & Rec: send out comment cards (or via email) to ask which specific services are most wanted. For Library: ask for more donations for free services.

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Reductions to Library Services and Recreation Services which are essential to keep the Youth active in constructive endeavors rather than crime should be reconsidered. Otherwise safety costs will escalate. Someone should check the demographic data to see the increase in youth of crime production age very soon.

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I wished we didn't have to reduce positions

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THE MASSIVE ARTS CUTS. I SUGGEST PROPORTIONALITY, CUT 50% OF THE POLICE BUDGET AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?!! ARTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE VERY FRAGILE. WITH JUST ONE YEAR OF THESE CUTS, RECENT IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE DESTROYED. THE MORE GRASS ROOTS CITY FUNDING THE EASIER IT IS TO GET OTHER GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION FUNDING.

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What is Charter Communications doing to help alleviate our budget shortfall? We give them a monopoly, cable fees increase much faster than the rate of inflation. The voice your choice had overwhelming feeling that channel 21 - "nice to have-Not necessary"

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-THE CONTRACTING OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR SMALLER COMMUNITY CENTERS. - UTILIZE PART TIME STAFF AND DEVELOP A SYSTEM WHICH HOLDS STAFF ACCOUNTABLE. WE NEED TO KEEP A HANDLE ON OUR COMMUNITY CTRS.

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Cuts to PCA ----- grants to community programs -- especially gang Prevention through the arts such as 4elements, an arm of the Willmore Urban Agency. This is a proactive approach to graffiti problem. \* Already voiced this CONCERN in City Maintenance session

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Reduction in Recreation Budget, Adopt a park / Adopt a Rec Program as a way to supplement Rec Budget -- And link these to grants as matching funds

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If we were to abate (curtail?) the alley program we could increase library hours. Wouldn't we rather attract people to the libraries rather than alleys ?!?!

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I hate to see the main library closed totally on Sunday How about cutting off those expensive cars used by city employees.

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Reduce hours & days of Library Availability

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Closing the Main Library on Sundays is a concern. Students need the resources over the weekend. Can we close on another day rather than Sunday?

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What are we doing about Port Security?

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

Have all unpaved alleys in the city of Long Beach be paved to eliminate of cleaning using the city employee to clean up twice or once a year that will cost much having many man hours to get it clean.

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Regarding Planning & Building      Strategic/General Plan should concentrate a bit more energy to Signage Design Guidelines

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Mandate cutting overtime in all departments incl. Fire. Cap salaries at all levels -- Further reduce City cars Why is Shannon's Staff increasing incl. a Mgt. Position.

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ELIMINATE ALL FIELD OFFICES (Council) &/OR reduce Council staff

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MISSING: WHY NOT LOOK AT FUTURE EXPENDITURES, PAYROLL, BENEFITS, ETC. THIS IS THE LARGEST OF SERVICES, (LABOR). THERE IS A HUGE PERCEPTION (SOMETIMES TRUE) THAT SALARIES ARE OUT OF CONTROL. STIGMA: HIGH PAY, NO PRODUCTION.

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TO HELP CITY TO CUT COST IN KEEPING THE CITY CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL IS TO MAKE THE RESIDENTS INTO THE OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY. MAKING THE OWNERSHIP IS TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF BELONGING AND GIVE THEM THEIR IDENTITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

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Is it cost effective to get serious about fining people who litter? This fine would not be "picking on" poor or rich. Seems like a win-win to me. Also we might use seniors/volunteers more. Not just stupid busy work. This is a much wasted resource.

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Employee salaries and compensation packages continue to need serious scrutiny! Given the current unemployment status, a cap on all salaries are in order!

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Stop wasting \$\$ & time catering to groups, who meet in City facilities, who don't comply with ADA guidelines--if they don't comply, they shouldn't be allowed to use City Rooms-PERIOD!!

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Freeze on Employee Compensation increases. Cleanse retirement compensation.

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Review what actually a "call for service" is... public safety plays w/ these numbers

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Let us sweep our own residential streets, and pick up trash at strategically-located bins only!

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Code enforcement-Book all calls in common data base. Routinely encourage call ins by police, fire, street sweepers, trash, meter reading, etc

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cops on the street in patrol cars

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ask the community to volunteer, use the people that are ordered to community service

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REMOVE THE "ENTITLEMENT" MENTALITY THAT FOSTERS THE BELIEF SYSTEM IN OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT OVERTIME IS/SHOULD BE A PREVALENT, STEADY & COUNTED-UPON COMPONENT OF THEIR OVERALL WAGES & SALARIES.

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Well planned dispatch of your eqpt. & logistic maint. project because we notice @ times when several eqpt. & persons in one little project with redundant & not efficiently cost effective. Also to follow up & put emphasis on sub contractor's jobs that they don't start one area & make a big tear down etc --- & long time to complete the job with all the mess & inconvenience & no one hold's the liable or to have a quality completion of their subcontractor's jobs.

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

Unpaved alleys; Utility Poles (termites); Utility Pipes underground; Home alarm - Police

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If you have decided to contract out Engineering services (Design, Survey, Inspection)- what guarantee do you have that it will be a cost savings and not ultimately cost the city more?

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Contracting out has not done as well as you say, city employees are always fixing or finishing off especially at landscape level, how are you going to change this so we get real value, or contracts at fleet why can't contractors actually fix transmission or radiators they should not be paid more than once for same vehicle

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funds for the Arts -----> should be combined with graffiti abatement to provide alternative outlet for youth to express themselves artistically. Suggest 4elements program- Willmore Urban Agency

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PAVING ROADS - EXPLORE COLD IN PLACE ASPHALT RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY.

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Not having a slurry program now that state will not fund. Try to get state to re-start fund !

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Feasibility of using [parking] lot sweeping w/ wonder hose to do medians for leaves [and] trash -----

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Reduction of pay increases, overtime hours, etc. especially for lower-paid employees is counter productive. The city loses their spending power, therefore sales tax revenue. Also, the less we pay for service jobs, the poorer the services get, which is bad for quality of life, LB's image.

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How do you justify charging Seniors at Club on the Green a fee and none of the other seniors at the other centers. Closed the senior (club on the green) Center and ensure the participants programs & activities at other centers.

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It appears that we should be able to function with less Fire Chiefs

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Instead of restructuring the Volunteer Banquets for teens and others we should eliminate it altogether as we now know it to be. We should allow each Dept. to recognize their own volunteers on a much smaller level & scale. Thereby allowing the staff that spends an entire year planning this event to replace people, positions that are open.

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Education, crime prevention, basic services (health care, etc.)

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Trash pick-up --- put trash cans back in designated area with lids closed and can completely empty

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CODE ENFORCEMENT. 1) STREAMLINE THE ENFORCEMENT DUE PROCESS 2) INCREASE PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS TO FUND - OR EVEN SUPERFUND - QUICKER ENFORCEMENT

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Pension Plans swapped for 401k's

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Cuts in Parks and Recreation Programs.

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WHAT (COSTS) DID THE CITY SPEND ON HANDOUTS AND CD?

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Interpreter for Deaf need not be provided unless requested ahead of time.

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SUNNYVALE MODEL (Public Safety Officers) Police ARE CROSS TRAINED AS Firefighters -- Firefighters AS Police \_\_ (2 PERSONS PER FIRE ENGINE) TEST IN Dists. 4-5 (Bedroom Community)

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Adopt A Block : Street Sweeping "Residential" City provides Tools '

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# Community Meetings Responses

half moon the breakout session to hear better [graphic included, card #67]

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The purchase of refuse vehicles does not affect the maintenance crew employment -> perhaps cut backs on wages of Fleet Managers. Also, evaluate that contracting agencies are up to par so that you don't have to pay again for correcting their services.

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[reduction in staff]

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Cuts in Diversion programs for youth. Cut Police and Fire salaries. They are overpaid and make up most of the budget. Require them to invest their time in the City and not live and play in other communities.

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WHEN WILL YOU STOP WASTING \$\$\$ ARRESTING MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS?!

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Love PD Community Relations--one of your best assets as a liaison between police & Community

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I hope that City safety employees will also participate in making employee benefit contributions. This is a significant way that employees can contribute to reducing the structural deficit - however, the City needs the help of all employees to make this work.

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Combine Police & Fire dispatch to save \$\$?

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION. While "we have a plan", it does not realistically account for the state train wreck that we all know is coming! We are doing the same thing as before.

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TECHNOLOGY Are we looking at "OPEN SOURCE" SOFTWARE OPTIONS

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Safety: How many FF's are being laid off as a result of Closing SIGNAL HILL FIRE STATION

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Stop the wholesale cutbacks in Safety personnel -- Sworn as well as Civilian support staff. This is going to DIRECTLY short term, as well as long term, have more negative impact on quality of Long Beach life than anything that could possibly be done. Solution (1)Cut back City Council seats by 40%-including peripheral support staff. (2) Begin cutting back City Management from top down-via pay cuts and excess personnel

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OBVIOUSLY WE MUST HAVE POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION. WE CAN'T USE A TEMP SERVICE. I SUGGEST NOT GIVING CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR RAISES. VAL LERCH REFUSED HIS RAISE, NO ONE ELSE HAD THE INTEGRITY TO JOIN HIM IN THAT.

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WE WANT THE BEST PUBLIC SAFETY SO WE SHOULD BE MORE COMPETITIVE.

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ELIMINATE MAYORS PAID POSITION, WE GOT ALONG FINE BEFORE ERA OF PAID MAYOR

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\* The closure of Main library on Sundays eliminates a special family learning experience for low income citizens of Long Beach. As soon as the budget allows I hope that Sunday hours will be restored. \* Please no more cuts to municipal band concerts

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CITY MAINTENANCE - NAT GAS: Delighted to hear about proposed maintenance of City vehicles, newer fuel, an overall apparent spending to value received! Fiscally responsible

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I think the DEA should be better supported by the City. Its funding seems to have been cut too much ---- about what is being added to fix alleys. I'd rather have a symphony & Theaters than a great alley behind my house --- even though it's terrible.

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## **Community Meetings Responses**

It is very scary to think that police or fire be cut at all! I am a westside resident where safety is a very large issue, to see a reduction in services will be devastating. We need more, not less.

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Yes, civilian job cuts, maybe we could scale back on paid hours & ask employees to volunteer 1 hr p. day, 40 hr. workweek to 35 paid & 5 volunteer

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PD - Cutting of civilian staff can be a false economy if uniform has to take up the slack. Each civilian position up for cuts needs to be carefully evaluated.

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Cuts in Parks & Rec programs for youth concern me. Cut police patrol. They are reactive not preventive.

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Cut in overturn pay that will effect non-emergency services. I hope Neighborhood Watch will be used more to offset cut in services.

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Yes, we should or are you serious about looking @ other cities who have a Revenue offender prog.. Too many service calls for Police & Fire - We need to get \$ back, create a plan that would increase recovery of these funds-

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Revenue Offenders - Charge Repeat offenders cost of services like false alarms on City Bill

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Maintain Police & Fire services @ existing levels - fund by increasing and Dedicating MORE UTILITY USE TAX

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- Any cuts to the police or fire depts.\* - How about any "perks" to some of the higher--paid personnel at City hall-- cut these back, or eliminate them. \* No. of personnel, salaries, benefits. Do NOT cut either.

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When Considering contracting, do you identify the cost of monitoring the contractors What is the cost of the average city employees vs. the annual cost of a manager per year? What about studies for our managers responsibilities

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The rolling closures in Libraries impact land locked poor communities! Why not have additional closures in communities that are mobile!

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Cuts in youth programs and programs that punish the poor communities. Put additional cuts in areas that can afford them!

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IF Los Angeles County Fire Department is so much cheaper, why don't we contract out Fire Services to Los Angeles County.

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Employee benefits. (Will lose best employees to other agencies) Instead Reduce employees.

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NOT from Port of Long Beach.

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Do not reduce fire & safety! Reduce the frequency of street sweeping. Improve the customer responsiveness of Parks & Recreation staff !! --

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Will you reinstate employees taking time off unpaid if their departments are not drastically understaffed.

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American program 200k-not monitored & there is nepotism

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Where are the affordable housing for the many residents who make under \$50k annual? We have too many low-poverty areas with no light @the end of tunnel

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

Complaint: car eyesore: West 27th & Gale, covered car with blue tarp & chained moves car only on sweeping day

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When you contracted out both tree trimming services and sidewalk repair, the result was really shoddy work. Did we really "save" by doing this?

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These reductions must be proposed. Automatic pay increases mandated by statute is abhorrent. COLAs should be no greater than inflation & should be eliminated when there is a deficit.

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Public Health .

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Not at this time.

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It seems like there are a lot of easy ways to save money - why are city materials printed on expensive stock, rather than plain paper? Why did we need 'the Grand', rather than a city facility? We don't need cookies & pleasant surrounding, we don't need high quality printed materials, we need a balanced budget. (Please don't say the facility was "donated", then we know that the city will owe favors to the owner!)

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Among many others-cut backs in Police & Fire personnel--sworn as well as civilian support staff.

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Review of all contracts. Privatize

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No more taking LOW-mode housing from other cities as a trade-off for anything

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Why did the City not deal with the Mercedes store, not indemnity the land..? Signal Hill sure has done well

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COMBINE HEALTH CODE ENFORCEMENT & NOISE ENFORCEMENT. KEEP HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF HOMES/BUILDINGS. COMBINE PUBLIC SAFETY FAIRS WITH PALS.

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BUG UP KEEP. KEEP SPRAYING, DON'T LIKE BUGS

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Given the cost cutting necessary in the C.M's budget. I hope that the update of the City's General Plan & especially its Land Use Element is not put on the back burner.

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Create higher fines for dummies who don't comply with city codes.

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Save Historic Preservation + Code Enforcement. Levy fines to make Code Enforcement pay for itself (... to impose fine at time of BEAC hearing, not after prosecution)

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CODE ENFORCEMENT - VERY IMPORTANT.. CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS- INVOLVE COMMUNITY USE VOLUNTEERS- USE CAL STATE & OTHER INTERNS- NEIGHBORHOODS VERY IMPORTANT - "BUSINESS FRIENDLY" NEEDS HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

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Job Training, workforce development for Youth/Adults. Hispanic/Latino youth were alarming underserved in 2002-2003 very concerned w/ the budget cuts how Latino youth will be served in the future.

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My concern is regarding your service of job training/jobs. I have participated in LB Career Transition Center in which I appreciate and this a great service! However, the budget crisis/freeze is stifling employment opportunities in long beach!! I am attempting to live & work in long beach but employment even w/ a graduate degree is scarce.

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

Contracting out services - contract providers give poor service, you get what you pay for with lowest bidder, no pride in service, with accountability suggest volunteers, community service workers as supplemental providers & Malign staff for improved coverage of site on less frequent basis

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Concerned about cuts to programs like code enforcement that offset quality of life - need to look at restructuring/cross training in all depts. that have people in the neighborhoods (trash etc) that gets problems reported sooner & corrected sooner (potholes..., dumped furniture picked up, etc.) Parks & Rec- free programs - set up the ... for parents to make donations when their children participate.

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Lay off of employees. I think that instead of laying off employees ([down] in services) you can evaluate how to consolidate depts. or relocate them to provide better services in other city departments.

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ART & CULTURAL PROGRAMS REQUIRE PERMIT FOR PARTIES WITH OVER (6 8 10) people. PERMIT WOULD COST SET PRICE. TO BE DETERMINED.

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Library Services as a while \* Cut back in other areas

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I hate to see reductions in the Arts and Libraries but I have no suggestions except the comment on the back.

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Public safety, Art, sidewalk & alley improvements

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Develop private partnership programs for infrastructure improvement. Adding to city revenues for Public Safety and other programs.

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Some city services are essential--police and fire protection, and trash collection. Privatize and reduce other municipal agencies. Public volunteers might be able to fill in the gaps. Government is too large and too powerful.

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(1) Will eliminating management positions create a more or less effective government? (2) What effect will reduction in recreation services, library services, arts and cultural programs have on the level of crime in LB?

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Clear, energetic presentation of Overview & main points! Thank you other suggestions-Fines for woofer speaker, loudspeaker parties that go beyond 10pm; enforcing jaywalking, litter, noise, etc. laws; increased fines for dump, trash-filled buildings fines to vendors who source litter; fine parents of offending gang members (graffiti, for instance; any crime)

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RDA funding to be reduced? How & what will be affected? Please publicize!

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(1) Contacting- Should be LB based businesses hired.-Also how about Job Corps, training young people in landscaping, fac. Maint., custodial services. (2) Cell Phones- move to Nextel Walkie-talkie type system (3) Put timers on ball field lighting. (4) Senior Olympics-Get Cerritos OR other Cities to share burden of cost. (5) Library- Alternate Sunday opens-Do Not just close Main on Sundays for good. (6) Hire Non-Police People for Admin jobs- Nonunion-Performance based raises.

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**Location: E-mail**

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

Smaller district police offices must be closed. LBPDP Community Relations is invaluable and must be preserved. Clerical help at the LBPDP is essential so that officers can do what they were hired for. ASL interpreters for the deaf are not needed unless requested. Garage witch-hunts are not a way to endear the public nor are they a wise priority item. All animals, including cats, should be licensed. Fees should be higher, especially for multiple pets at one address. Private contractors should be used where quality remains and \$\$ is saved. Gambling could be a great source of revenue and would attract more tourist dollars.

Last, but not least, the City needs to spend more time listening to constituents rather than wasting it explaining the \$97 mil deficit—the taxpayers have a right to expect better planning from “professionals.”

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A matter of grave concern has come to the forefront that needs to be resolved—the practice of jailing and prosecuting legitimate Long Beach patients who partake of medical marijuana. Not only is this cruel and inhumane, it is a drain on the already depleted coffers of Long Beach City. Expenses include incarceration costs, court expenses, prosecutor/district attorney, public defenders, police personnel, expert witnesses, laboratory time, medical expenditures, etc., etc. There have been at least four such cases in the past couple of years—all of which have ended with no conviction. The hundreds of thousands of dollars cost is involuntarily borne by the same LB taxpayers who voted in favor of Proposition 215 (The Compassionate Use Act of 1996). Per Prop 215 and according to the California Health and Safety Code 11362.5: “The people of the State of California hereby find and declare that the purposes of the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 are as follows: (B) To ensure that patients and their primary caregivers who obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes upon the recommendation of a physician are not subject to criminal prosecution or sanction. (C) To encourage the federal and state governments to implement a plan to provide for the safe and affordable distribution of marijuana to all patients in medical need of marijuana.” Presently, the policy of the LBPDP is to arrest or cite, seize “evidence”, and let the unfortunate patient sort it out in court. The current District Attorney vigorously prosecutes these cases regardless of merit. The latest victim, Nathan Smiley, is 71 years old with no prior criminal record. His “sorting it out in court” encompassed over 30 court appearances and a devastating expenditure of resources. When arrested for cultivating a mere 19 plants, Smiley was suffering from a painful and crippling condition and was unable to walk without assistance. He was admitted to the hospital jail ward. The provisions of Proposition 215 and the Health & Safety Code were completely disregarded, and compassion was thrown out the window. Many other communities have established guidelines for the sick and dying according to the California H & S Code. At present, no policies exist in the City of Long Beach that set forth allowable standards—the patients are caught precariously between a rock and a hard spot. The Council and/or the LBPDP must set forth some guidelines/policies so that the sick and dying can partake of this physician-recommended medicine without fear of prosecution. Not only will this save taxpayers money needed for fighting real crime and avert potential lawsuits, it’s the right thing to do!

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## **Location: Other**

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Multi task of all police, fire and code. Each should report each other violations. Police need to check the neighborhood for others violations and code and fire need to do same.

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(1) Start ??? Programs (sewage, trash, water-gas, public safety) (2) Eliminate duplicate management (either City Manager or Mayor) (3) Cancel consulting contracts (4) Rescind retirement package (5) Cancel redevelopment agency, allow tax increment to general fund (6) consolidate port operations into budget. Airy lit but could not respond to specific questions. Good PR but short on practical experience and knowledge.

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Keep up the good work the citizens of Long Beach are with you!

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## Community Meetings Responses

Maintenance reductions - we want to beautify our city so people will move to our area - not move away. There are 3 ugly empty lots on eagle, between Long Beach Blvd and Earl.

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Municipal Band is relatively low in cost and I think the citizens who attend are large in number and satisfaction level high.

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Police and Fire Personnel should NOT be exempt from cuts. They are a service like others the city provides, and the size of their staff is not some magical "must have." This is such a huge part of the budget problem that to ignore it is a real folly.

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Considerate LB Police and Fire with County. <<Duplicate of prior session>>

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Arts & cultural funding, dedicated revenue source - ticket tax

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Ouch "PCA" - To Big a Hit! Good desk policies and hire to the field as needed. Also keep up other skills.

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I'm not that brilliant nor informed! <<A first! Congratulations!>>

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Why are we using General Funds to increase funds to graffiti abatement? Couldn't we use federal block grant money instead?

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Don't cut pools of hope. They could go under as a result. Don't cut employee benefits particularly lower paid employees we need good city employees with high morale. Why not " " city employees in creative ways so you don't have to go to private over paid firms and contractors. <<Reduce sports expenses rather than culture or arts museums. Raise monies from the parents especially in the competitive sports like little league.>>

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I do think employees should pay a share of their pension & health plans. I'd like to continue to help out Pools of Hope how have fewer resources. Look for ways other than employees to save money.

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We seem to spend a lot on studies: studies by experts. Who can do it better than in house staff theory is sound - costs? Is it worth it? Are we getting our money's worth? <<Topics revisited - good to revisit>>

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<<Suzanne Mason did an outstanding job of explaining the budget reduction in language everyone could understand.>>

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I'm "concerned" that "leadership" will hang tough on overly generous pay, free pension, outrageous disability insurance payments, etc. Such a long history of (apparently) " " under. Take a firm stand - and not cave in to "Management Union" <<Excellent presentation, but a HUGE and complex topic!>>

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Just do what has to be done - we'll all have to eat cake. I think it's awful that people make more money ( or the same amount) retired as they made when they worked.

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You need to reduce the "Public Safety" portion of the budget. I mean 3 man crews and the closing of some stations. Fire Dept. can be cut. Do it and now!

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Raising price of natural gas is a mistake. Remember what happened to the utility tax. Purchase all city owned autos in bulk. Use same model for all employees, council members, etc. All city cars should be the same color with city logo. No unmarked city owned autos!

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Management salaries are too high and senior management is too top heavy. Downsize bureaucracy!!

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

Autos supplied should be a monthly allowance only! Salaries should all be CUT. Its outrageous now. Employees should pay for their own pensions and health care. Have town hall meetings let the public be hears. <<Confirms all of our questions misgivings about our city.>>

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Parks & Recreation, and Library: reducing and eliminating these activities imposes increased demands on public safety entities. Other Concerns: Impose fee/tax on fast food entities for refuse; control/address the homeless problem to reduce disease and filthy environment.

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Employee pay share of family health benefits. Retirement benifits way too high. Improve productivity instead of more employees sitting around.

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Need more substantive cost reductions, greater efficiencies - become a contracting city - eliminate high priced staff & administration. There is absolutely no way you can make up for the decades of neglect & outrageous spending without extreme measures. <<Suzanne does a very good job. No inequitable bonuses or raises to anyone!>>

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Municipal Band Concert reductions from 8 weeks to 6 weeks. Let local community groups surrounding pars keep the money collected at intermission with the provision that they spend that money on hiring other bands to stretch the season back out.

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cut individual/personal cars - utilize fleet, standard, uniform City autos.

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Reduce staffing cost for city council staff (14th floor). Utilize Municipal Band Cost and hire cheaper local bands for concerts. Elm Street or others.

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Look at all study request by council in terms of cost and benefit and the proposed result - is it necessary? Evaluate all pers. Service contracts the same way in terms of cost benefits.

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Rather than cutting code enforcement enhance it & get tougher to generate income through stricter enforcement and fines while the city would also look better.

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I hate seeing the municipal band reduced to 6 weeks. I think people would gladly contribute a few dollars each concert.

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Managers double up-cut 110 additional managers. Owners who rent property are in business and should pay a business tax on each apt. condo, or house that they rent. Need for a better library system in need of a complete overhaul, update.

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Code enforcement , weed abatement, zoning enforcement, very important to the 7th district. Works beautifully. NOW DO NOT CUT.

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Code enforcement, weed abatement, graffiti removal, all needed services.

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Police services...

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No reduction please on police dept., redevelopment, reduction and parks especially the seminars and children's sports dept.

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The rolling closures at branches in communities that are not mobile. Please consider additional closures in communities that are mobile to lessen the burden on poorer communities.

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

## **"What do you think is the best way to encourage ongoing community participation?"**

### **Location: Community Budget Summit**

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Get people to believe that that these elements of government really affect them. Many believe that government belongs to someone else until they need the services of government.

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Community meetings & information to local papers.

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Meetings- additional meetings--such as this

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The publicity give to today's forum was excellent, as affirmed by the community turnout. Keep it up.

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KEEP THEM WELL INFORMED.

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Devote full meeting to each break out session topic. The opening session ran long and as a result the break out sessions were far too rushed.

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Continue informing the public on the progress of the budget through newspaper articles, and information on the City website. Continue to hold periodic public meetings. Provide citizens with an opportunity to continue to comment on the budget process via comment cards and comments via e-mail.

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Actually have City Hall be responsive to its Citizens !

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\* Maybe A Fitting Suggestion: About the Port of Long Beach. The Port being the Basin of LA River receives lots of dumps from the Communities & cities above. Some more of Port's Budget towards Clean-up in Port area & above. \$ may be with Park's Youth & Adult Programs to participate in actual clean-up & passing out flyers to the communities etc.--- Just more \$ to do more of the exiting "SAME"

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Online accessibility is very important to to have participation from those too busy to go to community meetings

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TRY TO COMMUNICATE, OUTREACH. DON'T WAIT FOR PUBLIC TO COME TO YOU. GO TO THE PUBLIC. LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT YOU DO FOR THEM. THINK BRANDING (LIKE INTEL DID A FEW YEARS BACK).

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MAKE THEM FEEL THEY OWN THE PLACE.

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I think most people just want to ask their questions. Regularly-scheduled Q+A sessions with City officials might be a way to do this.

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Lead by example. Mayor, City Attorney, Councilperson Should forgo pay hikes! We don't believe the city is earnest in its attempts to balance the budget if the Leaders are unwilling to be part of the solution.

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Openness! Honesty!

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Meetings like this & presentations to community groups. Listen?

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Start listening to the residents of the city, not special interest.

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# **Community Meetings Responses**

use community service worker in a better way.

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meetings such as this

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continue doing neighborhood meetings. Have a place for citizens to contact regarding questions and concerns that is easy to get a live person.

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Lots of Advertising of meetings. We found out about City Meetings through a flyer posted on our door through City Council. Do more of this.

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(1) I APPRECIATE OUR COUNCILMAN'S OFFICE MR. LERCH BUT WE NEED STRONGER & REVITALIZED NBRHOOD WATCH PARTICIPATION DOWN THE LINE FROM COUNCIL'S OFFICE TO SU-SEQUENT AREAS IN THAT DISTRICT ---- (2) PUT ADS ON TOWN MEETINGS, CITY PROJECTS, & MORE ON MEDIA

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Public Meeting. Like today 7/12/03

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Make it known that you are listening by responding. People need to see that you are doing something about our concerns.

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Encourage media to provide more info

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More of these kinds of programs

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INVITE ON-LINE COMMENTS & PUBLICIZE RESULTS

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Going out to communities and talking much less and listening more.

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Advance publicity-Encourage Press Telegram to publish notice prior to day of activity-

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Continue to have Community meetings, forums etc.

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Develop relationships that allow community to meet service personnel: Neighborhood Watch (contact churches/others to establish new watch groups), invite schools, churches, others to sponsor health & safety fairs for neighborhoods

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Get the word out - this Forum was successful in doing that (the one at the Convention Center wasn't)

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More of these forums

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FOR OPENERS, WHY NOT GIVE THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND ASK QUESTIONS AT THESE EVENTS? MORE THAN 80% OF THIS PROGRAM WAS CITY EMPLOYEES TALKING. INTERESTINGLY, THIS IS THE SAME PERCENTAGE OF THE GENERAL FUND WHICH FLOWS TO LABOR, BENEFIT AND PENSION COSTS.

---

Don't just have lip service to our input.

---

Continue to have MORE community budget meetings presented by City staff. Use the website to announce upcoming meetings and as much information on the budget as possible.

---

By increasing the awareness that issues important to the community are being address (being more specific). FYI - email is great (and free)-try getting more people to volunteer email address.

---

# **Community Meetings Responses**

Publicity ---- Media, newspaper, etc this was good

---

Keep inviting the Community, they don't read the Press Telegram

---

More Town Hall meeting in the community

---

- Continue to have more budget hearings. Listening to City staff is more informative than our pompous elected officials.

---

Provide citizens with ongoing information on the budget process through the newspaper, website & other media. Give citizens a means to make comments throughout the budget process. Continue to hold periodic informative public meetings.

---

Truth, fairness, transparency

---

Continue to meet w/ community leaders, Chief Batts. and his team of Leaders is doing a outstanding job of building relationships w/ the Community.

---

Put listings in the newspaper of the volunteer opportunities that are available, some examples of what some of the jobs entail and number of hours required.

---

(1) Weekly updates published in all community newspapers. (2) Bi-weekly open forum meetings consisting of progress reports; question, answer, suggestion from community. (3) Monthly publication of ALL City expenditures-salaries, projects, etc. Monthly publication of ALL City revenue-from ALL sources.

---

THIS FORUM AND RECEIVING MAIL ABOUT THESE ISSUES,

---

SIMILAR MEETINGS

---

Explain more clearly and less pomp & circumstance- This budget Summit was 99% show and 1% go- listening to citizens.

---

This is a beautiful facility and it has been very informative to be here. - Community participation in low income neighborhoods with meetings in community building and plenty of advertising of the meeting - I am pretty sure you are doing this.

---

Obviously this site as considered more community friendly for access, parking. Downtown not so.

---

I liked this meeting & the openness. But in our groups there wasn't enough time to address public input.--- Just time for staff to talk.

---

ANNOUNCE meetings the best you can

---

Keep information flowing. Talk to the high schools and colleges. Many may volunteer.

---

- The website had little details on today's session. At least post all the documents handed out today. - Get the Press Telegram to provide FREE public announcements instead of just armchair criticizing. - Establish an email sign up for people to get budget updates

---

It was good to hear that Neighborhood Watch Program will be used to solve decrease in "staff."

---

Bring services online that don't require official forms, reports, etc.

---

# **Community Meetings Responses**

Go to the groups

---

Make time for questions.

---

Put out lots of information. Track people to your website.

---

Continue to have more sessions like this--

---

more afternoon + weekend sessions as this one - with employees as well. This is 1st time I saw I would definitely have 1/3 of my work (st. landscaping) contracted out. Although we suspected as much.

---

Weekend & evening meetings. Mtgs must have time for community input

---

Newsletters in utility bills. Help line for general questions.

---

Series of forms like this.

---

Personalize-(photocopy) Not From Mayor and Council Member for Community Meeting- in Local Community Center and School - a high volume marketing to get the people out to hear.

---

Public meeting/like today

---

More time in breakout sessions. How about discussion panels on issues of particular interest. Need to create better paying jobs in the city.

---

BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS. HOLD COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SATURDAY MEETINGS.

---

More of this sessions

---

increase publicity re: multi services clinic, I don't feel a lot of persons know about this

---

Somehow make MOST of the citizens realize that everyone is needed to make this city really shine! (The old "Let Joe do it "Syndrome")

---

Make meetings in the evenings, in the neighborhoods, and as well advertise as today's session was. Also cut the opening BS!

---

The arrogance of our city leaders is palpable. The people make choices, then their wishes are ignored. i.e. term limits, commission appointments, allowing massive developments in established neighborhoods (PacifiCenter) Start being responsive to the will of the community, not deep pocket contributors, developers or businesses, that take the money& run. Your first priority should always be neighborhoods, then everything else will fall into place.

---

Open budget meetings -weekly published updates in all community newspapers. Bi-weekly open forum meetings-w/question/answer/suggestions, from community.

---

Newsletters quarterly-in utility bills. We need a phone line for ideas on going

---

Town hall meetings -- Community Newsletter

---

WORD OF MOUTH

---

# **Community Meetings Responses**

ESTABLISH NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS TO KEEP LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE.

---

Target already organized and mobilized stakeholder groups in the city including schools (via PTAs...) churches, service orgs, community groups ...

---

Please contact all neighborhood groups, historic districts to help w/ input on façade improvement, small business/regulation --- Overall improvement of presentation of 7th Street from eastside to downtown

---

Well today, for example, you allowed 7 minutes of public participation in the first breakout session, during which most input you heard concerned items the public has complained about for years. What do you think

---

Since our Community is so diverse, comprised of several ethnic populations. I would recommend that a Multi-Ethnic task force be considered to provide input for on-going information to ensure all the voices of the Community are heard, and the needs are being met.

---

I hope community Police Centers will be used for your "public dialogue program."

---

Continue to be visible & Available - get contact # & names out listen! Spend less time talking & more time listening, citizens want to be heard people want someone dedicated to area - North, South, East & West.

---

## **CONTINUOUS OUTREACH**

---

By keeping us informed of decisions. I think that by coming out to neighborhood meetings on a regular basis it will help us "non political" people understand the process.

---

To encourage the City to take Advantage of Partnering with Faith-based org. that current Presidential Administration has recommended

---

Coming out to us as you are---a well prepared presentation.

---

Performance Management let us know

---

Reduction of fees for services to those persons who participate and giving of Public Recognition for Service.

---

Has anyone given thought to the idea of making the city government positions Mayor, City Council, and City Manager no-paid and voluntary?

---

1. Long Beach residents must help take care of their city. People need to volunteer: children and adults, such as at the library. Parks, recreation, the arts, fire & police dept. 2. Encourage churches to be more involved in meeting the needs of their community 3. Increase effectiveness of neighborhood watches 4. Add 1 or two commissioners to each commission to help improve their effectiveness 5. AFFORDABLE Housing is essential. 6. The Job Core would be a great source of assistance.

---

Traveling shows--Theater in the ... about the "Story of How Long Beach Bounced Back!" In different languages

---

Public forums like this!

---

Ask each community/neighborhood org. for this help. Include the organizations in some of the decision making on their areas. Go out to businesses- Ask for their input....

---

The Mayor, Council, Manager's Office and personnel are to be commended for their time and effort extended to obtain community participation in the budget problem facing the city. It is incredible. Thank you.

---

# **Community Meetings Responses**

## **Location: Other**

---

Follow up with complaints within 48 hours. You might not be able to do anything but the citizen will at least know what you did and the current status.

---

Meet one on one with business owners and large property owners, stop "community" meetings

---

Show results - we come to these meetings get excited to rid our block of crime - we are told to call the police, the police don't come half the time. Also, direct mail to residents or email to communicate.

---

I have heard the "pre-budget" speech and now the "Proposed FY03 Budget". Both were useful, informative and thorough.

---

Elections. The "Participation" which has occurred this year has involved a very small percentage of total city residents. This minority is now being treated as "the public" and illustration of why democracy doesn't work when 500,000 people are involved. Unless the percentage can be increased, council people should continue to represent their constituents.

---

What you're doing now plus more with media.

---

\*A point of clarity: Proposed FY04 - add the budget amount from FY03 along with the reduction for FY04.

---

Keep us informed! Positive or negative.

---

News paper articles.

---

Continue to talk to groups.

---

Best? I don't know. We need to continue what we're doing. Someone will come up with a good idea.

---

Attend as many meetings as possible.

---

You're on the right (but difficult) track. People need to think their input will be considered.

---

Have these kinds of meetings with lots of audience participations.

---

Take some action when you receive some input from L.B. Residents.

---

Interactive website. More two way communications.

---

Let the people be heard.

---

Implement and maintain the 3 C's (communication, communication, communication).

---

Propose community participation before we reach a crisis.

---

Eliminate "created" jobs for chosen former staffers that get paid a premium. Checking community calendars - particularly where you are conducting the meeting. More round table discussions. May be narrow to just a few hotter topics. Maybe offer debates on topics. Get community discussion in the process much earlier - not after staff has direction.

---



## **Community Meetings Responses**

Make people believe that their participation is really going to make a difference in the final outcome. Most of the time all we get is lip service, not our desired result.

---

Ask questions of the community first. "how/what do you think about "blank" as opposed to "here's what we are going to do for you!" Staff gets too vested in problematic ideas/programs before community enters the conversation.

---

Keep the open dialogue coming.

---

Articles in newsletters, visits with neighborhood organizations.

---

Active neighborhood associations are a good source for you. I think anything you can do to bolster these organizations will encourage participation in the community at large. (neighborhood watch, cert).

---

Meetings like this to include more of community leaders.

---

Keep on communicating with the community to be encourage to participate and let them know their input is important.

---

Call people at home and invite them to attend these meetings (very important) or notifications by e-mail.

---

## **Community Meetings Responses**

**"Do you have any other comments for the Mayor and City Council to consider when deliberating on the Proposed FY 04 Budget?"**

### **Location: Community Budget Summit**

---

All of the local cities that have casinos are able to pay their bills- why can't we put one on the Queen Mary? Tourists would love it!

---

would have liked more info?

---

Be wise in your decisions. Saving Police and Fire in your decisions will lead only to greater costs in these fields in the future. Look at the state and the major costs of prison guards. We don't need that locally. We want a better quality of life. <<<Not enough time>>>

---

will closing library evening hours make it so LB storytellers and other groups that use the community rooms be forced out?

---

The Golf Course system is profitable. The Golf Course contributes--American Golf--should be permitted fair profits. With the windfall profits of outside tournament and Hotel programs, these profits now are excessive. These profits should be for our cash strapped city

---

WHILE SOME CITY FUNCTIONS MAY RUN MORE EFFICIENTLY THROUGH CONTRACT SERVICES, CONTRACTING OUT PARK SERVICES WILL COST THE CITY MORE \$ IN THE LONG RUN. OUR FACILITIES ARE FALLING APART AND CONTRACTORS DO NOT HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE UP KEEP.

---

Take a City-wide perspective versus a District perspective when considering budget reductions. Encourage all employees, including safety personnel to participate in reducing City expenditures by paying a portion of their retirement costs.

---

They need to curtail their own spending & eliminate extraneous expenses

---

I would volunteer in a type to enhance this kind of "MORE" participation in order to reach the goal of a "cleaner" River Basin. That's a Big Branched out project. I could at least give a hand---water cleaner& cleaner!

---

To: Comm. Development, Q. What effects are underway in areas of : Quality control (type of Businesses) - Architectural -(facades) creating standards for vacant commercial space to stabilize Pine Avenue strip before The Pike OPENS

---

DON'T JUST CUT MONEY. TAKE STEPS TO GAIN EFFICIENCY IN THE FUTURE. SOME THINGS ARE TO MUCH AT ONCE, BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE, IT CAN BE DONE.

---

The Council must not be afraid to ask for reductions to Public Safety services. Police officers and firefighters should not automatically be considered to be "heroes" that are exempt from taking their fair share of reductions.

---

No pay increase for those who make \$50,000.--- or more. Every dept. office intense recycling in

---

Negotiate w/ the union -----If they are unwilling to work w/ Employee Compensation. Have new/non Union Employees.

---

Refer to assessed valuation per-capita---LB is lowest around, and affects our ability to pay.

---

## **Community Meetings Responses**

consider .25% sales tax for city to pay for infrastructure ,consider city wide assessment to pay for infrastructure, Eliminate COLAS and automotive pay increase immediately. If COLAs-link only to inflation growth, encourage better companies with better paying jobs. No increased pay when deficit spending.

---

There is NO reason for council to accept salary increases in this time of crisis. Shame on you for car expenses, furnishing offices & gaining personal wealth at city expense.

---

Have a residential Renter tax-somewhat equal to a Homeowner Property tax. Renters use services so they should help pay. They live in the city they should help pay <<<This is a good thing to keep talking>>>

---

I am concerned that our city is having 2 air shows that will hurt my area structures and const big liability yet not have any money to fix street, sidewalks, etc. Explain the rationale?

---

Some Streets don't need re-slurring! (Florida) It was kind of wasteful to re-slurry it.

---

I would like to Volunteer in some type of City Dept. To follow-up Dept Maintenance Projects and its subcontractor's job for quality of performance & street friendly pedestrian or commuter results.

---

Home alarm

---

Be more proactive. Avoid reacting to damage --- take steps to prevent it by redirecting energy. Think martial arts!

---

Clean up graffiti + therefore clean up gangs

---

Parking fees for City Place discourage people from coming to the downtown area. Why pay to park at City Place when you can park for free at Lakewood Mall, etc. Need more unified plan for development of downtown area: Shoreline is too far away from Aquarium, Convention Center, etc.

---

WHAT PROVISION IS BEING MADE FOR A RESERVE FUND TO DEAL WITH THE NEXT BUDGET CRISIS? WHEN ECONOMIC TIMES ARE BAD, USUALLY THERE'S MORE NEED FOR SERVICES, NOT LESS. <<<COMMENT ON THE BUDGET FORUM - GOOD PRESENTATIONS, BUT NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO DISCUSS OR LOOK AT DETAILS.>>>

---

When the Council talks about high salaried employees we need to, should and must, separate management employee Salaries from regular City employees. <<<Too fast, no time for questions>>>

---

Not budget, but improve appearance to entrance of City on Atlantic Avenue in NLB- Stop signs for businesses being placed in medians down center of street

---

<<Too general let's get to the meet and bones.>>

---

## Community Meetings Responses

(1) An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. (2) Trickle down doesn't work (3) Be very wary of privatization! (4) See attached: Service Optimization, Prop 13 has had a disastrous effect on local budgets. Our strategy for recovery is equally disastrous. Our Focus on Tourism & Retail means we continue to replace solid jobs with low-wage, no benefit jobs. This creates additional pressure for affordable housing, public assistance and city services, outpacing any minimal benefit to the City. "Redevelopment" exacerbates this condition, funneling public funds into the creation of dead-end jobs, further perpetuating poverty. As we saw with recent Conv. & Visitors Bureau scandals, the Transient Occup. Tax is not our salvation either. We must look at the quality of jobs, the quality of life of our residents. The City should: - support amending AC16 in the State Leg. Prop 13 to exempt commercial property - Find new sustainable revenue, demand greater revenue sharing with the State - Return to Keynesian Economic model, rather than trickle down. - Libraries are useless without Librarians. Get more staff, extend programs,- this pays for itself down the road w/ citizens that are productive and residents who want to live in L.B.

---

Services are what taxpayers want, not bigger government

---

Focus on Policy direction and less on the little details. Consider the entire City not just your own districts. <<No detail in what is being cut.>>

---

Before implementing services (such as street re-slurring) someone should evaluate the need for the service before implementation.

---

Do not borrow!

---

not yet

---

Consider maintaining quality services in Police, Fire, Emergency, Safety.

---

Be less pompous. Read the budget documents. Focus on policy direction instead of minute details. <<Not enough detail. Not enough time !>>

---

When making choices, consider balance. The City needs youth programs, and parks as well as safety services. Elected Departments, e.g. City Atty. City Auditor & City Prosecutor also need to participate in the 3 year plan.

---

(1) set workman's compensation levels by department and do not increase in future years! Make departments manage within existing amounts - This forces departments to become proactive and invest in prevention, and rapid return to work.

---

(1) We need to cut FF. Go to 3 man Crews. This cuts personal cost by 33% and OT by 25% (2) Do away with DARE in P.D. (3) Phase 4 -> 3 man crews with retirements (4) Make lawsuits come out of PD budget. "i.e.. Belmont Shore rapist " (5) 3% RETIREMENT @ 50 IS "CRIMINAL." I don't have that. Benefits should reflect the community, the lobbying of FF/PD unions. Go to 2 TIER Pay/Vacation/Compensation Structure

---

The City of Long Beach Community Policing TEAM does a great job of working w/ the community & business to build trust, and confidence. Please continue to support and develop this special unit.

---

The safer our city --- the more people who will want to come here, do business, etc.

---

Use some foresight-it's easy now to cut, cut, cut, but this method is only a Band-Aid, and is going to be devastating effect on the future welfare of citizen safety & quality of life in our City. This is extremely shortsighted, this is the type of mentality that got this City into trouble to begin with

---

Really include all "hoods"- not just downtown! Do not take or balance on the children.

---

# **Community Meetings Responses**

This is a Wonderful City -- you have a difficult task ahead of you - I wish you well. Transparent government is an excellent policy.

---

Listen to residents. Get value for \$, not go for lowest bid - go for quality & longevity. Be cost effective. ! Salary freeze. Consider street sweeping 2x or 1x month.

---

I think cutting the arts is shortsighted. The organizations may go under without city support and it will take many years (more than 3!) to bring them back.

---

Keep the public involved!

---

Yes. 2-3 years ago my husband save a written proposal for civilian, volunteer augmentation to the CITY Police force to Laura Batts. I have great alternatives to paid staff which will aid in safety of the community. IT needs to be moved to a department that will utilize it. It's called the CLEP program. Call my husband, he will forward appropriately.

---

View the City as a whole and do not get stuck on territorial issues and how to satisfy those that contribute the most to your campaigns. <<Not enough detail. How many positions are being cut for FY04?

---

Create Jobs offer incentives to small businesses like developers.

---

Use county model - Fire Department 3 per truck - LB is 4per truck - limit vacation/PTO/if not used-loose. Limits liability on books. What was the total costs for this program? Did city employees volunteer ?

---

Legalize Gambling

---

Look at cuts from the City Auditor, City Attorney & City Council, Mayor's etc budgets for reductions

---

The average cost of a city employee vs. the average cost of a manager so that additional cuts will come from the ranks of the managers

---

Look at making changes in state laws that will allow funds from departments like the Harbor to be transferred into the general fund.

---

Require City Employees to live in the City

---

Keep communications open. Establish assistance for all city workers being terminated. This includes social services, resume writing, access to internet for job search, job training or re-training, free child care... after all their livelihoods are being greatly altered. Offer salary reduction vs. job elimination.

---

Of the proposed reduction In full time employees over the next 3 years, how many of these positions are currently vacant vs. occupied with real people? Same? Applies to the 48 Managerial positions identified for elimination? I would be willing to discuss my comments in person.

---

I love pocket park ideas. Remember natural plants does not mean maintenance free, they still need to be trimmed. Plant knowledge is crucial for them, none of your present contract people have that.

---

## **Community Meetings Responses**

I NOTICE THAT MANY NEIGHBORHOODS AROUND LONG BEACH ARE ALLOWING ONE OR MORE RESIDENCES TO BUILD ADDITIONS THAT ARE OVERSIZED FOR THE LOT, AND DISRUPTIVE. WHEN THE CITY ALLOWS ONE HOME TO PUSH ITS ORIGINAL FOOTPRINT AND CROWD THE NEIGHBORS, IMPOSE ITSELF TOWARD THE SIDE WALK, OR BUILD UP A STORY TALLER THAN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BLOCKING SUN. THIS IS A LOUSY EXAMPLE. IF YOU PERMIT OWNERS TO PATCHWORK EXPANSIONS AND CREATE A CLUTTERED GHETTO ATMOSPHERE, OUR CITY & ITS NEIGHBORHOODS WILL SUFFER. TRASH, CARS PARKED IN YARDS, ABANDONED FURNITURE IN OUR EMPTY LOTS, AND OVERFLOWING APARTMENT DUMPSTERS HAVE BEEN IGNORED FOR THE 2 YEARS MY NEIGHBORHOOD IN DOWNTOWN HAS COMPLAINED, ENFORCE ZONING, OR ANNOUNCE THAT IT'S A FREE FOR ALL.

---

It is a false economy to consistently cut code enforcement & Maintenance Programs. It is extremely difficult if not impossible to recover & clean up the resulting problems later. Need a forum just on Community Development of at least 1/2 day.

---

Why don't we privatize. Why is it we do not have a tool to audit programs that do not work & then close them down. How are you all going to help the blighted neighborhoods in keeping \$ in areas most needed

---

Rent Control. 7th St is a great concern. It is such a downer, and scary too.

---

Yes, 1. Let look@ the salaries for upper management 2. Get a handle on small business program that's effective to create revenue 3. Create a plan to recover revenue from Code Enforcement too many service calls for Police & Fire <<OK>>

---

COLAs need to be eliminated until city gets out of the red & they should never exceed inflation. Automatic pay increases must be removed permanently from any charter or municipal code mandate Sustainable resources. Consider .25% increase in sales tax for city or property tax assessment specifically to address infrastructure requirements. <<Need more time to hear the public & discuss issues>>

---

More community participation <<Kudos !>>

---

Health care is very important

---

<<\* Community Voices is a great idea-good to meet the people behind the titles-good to hear the questions & comments & concerns of fellow citizens - many are the same concerns as mine>>

---

Keep your priorities (and those identified by the citizens) in mind

---

In the child care issues include home licensed providers through the Greater Long Beach\Lakewood Family Child Care Association- Is the LBU school district under the same rules\codes\permits as the other construction sites Air quality will be very poor in my North Long Beach 'Hood' with 2 schools being built 2 blocks from my City & State licensed child care home.

---

Before cutting safety personnel-cut City Council seats by at least 40%-including their support staffs. Then go to work on cutting City Gov't from the top down - via pay cuts, position cuts, etc.

---

Consider Bankruptcy and start with zero-based accounting. Consolidation of 4th man on the fire dept to also do code enforcement.

---

Consider audit and review of PERS & other encumbering programs. Do not utilize Redevelopment dollars to free dollars from project areas. Leave PAC's in tact

---

What are you planning to do with the land on Spring Street across the Auto dealers?

---

# Community Meetings Responses

NONE

---

I HAVE SEEN A COMMERCIAL ON TELEVISION ABOUT LGB & COME & VISIT . COMMERCIAL IS WELL DONE (YES) HOWEVER WAS IT NOT VERY COSTLY. CAN WE AFFORD SUCH A COST???

---

Long term, proactive view, not short term sales tax generation only - economic development vs. economic growth. More "Pike's" aren't the answer.

---

<<but very short>>

---

Stop fines for code violations - especially those involving absentee landlords, apartment owners -- homeowners (owner occupant) should be worked with & not penalized as drastically as absentee landlords/owners. Small business should be highly regulated & not allowed to look like a Tijuana business.

---

citable offenses code, business license, etc. - enforcement - s/b paid for through fines.

---

The Mayor is doing a great! Job as a leader to access her community, and embrace the diversity of the City and not just say we are a city w/ wonderful diversity.

---

My question: Who is going to live in all of the new apartments going up downtown?

---

- Public safety support staff is as important as police, fire & dispatch - use employee suggestions & expertise rather than contract auditors & outside consultants to analyze areas for improvement- use dept. analysts to Review other depts. - make community created government & community outreach & involvement a priority, - don't rely on a redevelopment manager as a revenue source; allow current ... Area control. - Continue to examine duplication of services and possibility of cross-training employees in the field to multi-look work assignments ' with minimal training, employees can provide ASSISTANT to other depts. If they are trained and informal - Encourage personal accountability; empower citizens to do their share & not expert gov't. to carry entire workload

---

enterprise funds depts. Need to follow same principle - no structural deficits should be allowed-

---

I think that a small increase in fees for services like #10 for yard-sales v. \$8 will provide some money. Also other small fees at parks & rec, library, or arts. Also a small % of increase for employees' medical benefits.

---

- Abandonment of the "ARTS" in the ... Village - Demise of Pine Avenue Business - need on-going Budget ... for Attracting Jobs, both White/Blue Collar position - Now. <<Good Presentation. 7/12/2003-Presentation-provided ... w/ figures.>>

---

- How's the city able to continue with New Capital Projects & say you're operating in the fed? - What's the % of \$ the City receives from the poet? - What about discretionary funds that City Council Members have Access to? - How does the proposed Merger impact the city budget one way or another? - How much \$ is the City Receiving in federal funding to help balance the budget? - Why do we have to keep spending \$\$ on studies/consultants & strategic plans...?

---

It is such a shame the federal government is creating wars and giving tax rebates while choking state and local governments of much needed revenue for much needed services. Impeach the Education President "No child left behind." what a joke

---

Long0term Planning for sidewalks & alleys (Redo) alleys once a year

---

# **Community Meetings Responses**

Big government is wasteful and incompetent. Sometimes one wonders what the point of government really is. It seems that government employees don't do anything for what they are paid. There are too many government employees.

---

(1) Establishing a non-profit foundation to raise monies needed particularly for recreation and library services; art & cultural programs. (2) Need to contract out to Long Beach businesses that are efficient, perhaps not the lowest bidder which will save money (3) Maintaining sidewalk and street repairs and alley clean ups are essential Bravo on keeping the funding for the ADA Transition Plan (4) Maintaining FIRE and police department services is essential

---

<<I love the volunteerism idea & city working with schools. Great evening! Thank you!>>

---

The #1 priority is streets & sidewalks & funding was announced to be set aside & work on 7th Street would be done as soon as more engineers were hired (1 YEAR AGO) but worse has not yet begun. Cross-town street from #22 to #710 Freeway but is still in disgraceful condition for visitors & residents. WHEN will 7th Street be reformed?

---

Encourage Business to Home Base in Long Beach-TAX Break for New Bus. Make sure you really really Listen to the citizens.

---

ATTEMPT to get a vote to increase the utility tax return to the original 8%. If you try - good luck!!

---

## **Location: E-mail**

---

The Council must show others by their actions that they recognize there is a budget crisis in this City. They need analyze their own offices, expenses, budgets, etc. before looking elsewhere. District off-site council meetings should be eliminated.

They should waive their 3.7% raises and use their own cars with a reduced allowance. All Council members should have advisory meetings with their constituents no less than once a month.

---

## **Location: Other**

---

Many expired car, tags and no tags on streets. Many parking 72 hours or more in the same spot. Many garages full. Eleven tags on my street alone.

---

(1) All city employees must live in City/no exceptions (2) City Council elected Citywide (3) Restrict council budget to exact amount (4) Set standards for council aides (5) Stop subsidy to any development (6) Eliminate section 8 housing program until balance is shown citywide. (7) Stop "Community" meetings (8) Eliminate union - Management conflict with senior managers by revised employment contract (9) Encourage the election to the council of business people

---

Find some way to put more police officers on the streets; faster response time.

---

I would like to see a chart or graph showing these proposed changes as I think that many people are visual. Also, I think you should look at attendance to keep making decisions that are wise.

---

I understand that 16 grant - funded police officers are to be hired for a three year period, paid for by a grant. I would recommend that these officers be hired on three year contracts which make it clear UP FRONT that these positions will GO AWAY after three years, and will not become part of the "Base" budget problem the general fund is experiencing.

---

Increase fees for services.

---



# **Community Meetings Responses**

Show some back bone and make tough decisions

---

Increase city tax on hotel rooms.

---

Collection for paramedic services from private insurance and others. How? I don't know.

---

Be open and candid! Consider interested citizens donations to avoid reductions in concerts in the park - what are total of funds raised in the buckets.

---

If the city is safer & cleaner and we look to support increased homeownership, we can increase property values, reduce the need for city services to address problems & stabilize our community.

---

There's got to be a way to undo the damage of all those raises have done before this last set. Definitely set aside more and more for infrastructure.

---

NO

---

Must put restriction of use of "one time funds" NOT use for on going future!

---

Each 04 must be gored and our citizens need to recognize this reality. I as everyone else has things that are important to me (arts, libraries, etc.) however we all must understand that we have a very serious problem until our income increases, all these cuts MUST be made.

---

First off, they should sit still during a meeting and pay attention to the citizens present.

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Create incentive to attract employee residency - especially police and fire.

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Make the very tough choices. Lay offs are in order. Stop pampering the unions. Employees need to pay the majority of their costs/benefits. Let the unhappy underpaid employees go. Bring in some new blood. Physicians on staff? For workers comp? Contract out! Remove the 355 CPI increase out of the charter NOW! There should be NO automatic increase. Have council members share staff resources & reduce staff among the offices.

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Reduce the overall "4th floor" budget by not less than 50%. No council person should be allowed to have more than two people on staff (even if they have a field office). No council person should have a city provided vehicle; give them nominal car allowance instead.

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stop paying entire employee (Inc. family) health & pension policies. Fleet cars should all be the same. All pickups same (make, model, features). <<No raises!>>

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As community improvement director, our concern with sidewalk, curbs, is of great importance. The beautification of neighborhoods reflects the city. Alamitos beach is the vital link between Belmont Heights, Bluff Park and downtown (east arts district).

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Are we getting enough revenue from American Golf? Who is responsible for maintaining the fences around the courses? What about the concession for retrieving balls from the pond. What about other properties in the city's inventory including wet land? Good some be sold or leased (along the San Gabriel Riverbed for instance). Some of the graffiti abatement could be handled by volunteers.

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## **Community Meetings Responses**

The city council should take over the redevelopment agency temporarily. They could put redevelopment on hold for 2 or 3 years, return the tax increment go into the general fund. At the 3 year return to funding redevelopment projects with the tax increment. After all, the tax increment would have been going to the general fund if it wasn't a redevelopment area.

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Shouldn't we go slow in increasing existing fees?

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Think always the constituents " " let them & keep them involved.

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Suggest that apartment owners (many of them are absentee owners) pay a yearly business license fee to help cover the costs of city services (PD, Fire, Health, Bldg. Inspectors) that are needed to handle problems generated by these rental properties. In addition many of the owners are receiving section 8 monies from tax payers and are benefiting from city services as well.

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